

REMARKS

In the September 28, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-10 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the September 28, 2007 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 7, as indicated above. Thus, claims 5-7 are pending, with claims 5 and 7 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Beginning at the top of page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Document JP 2002-357377 (Unezake et al.). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 5 and 7 to clearly define the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claims 5 and 7 have been amended to require that the existing air conditioner is charged with a new working refrigerant ***that serves as a cleaning agent***, comprises an HFC refrigerant containing at least 40 wt% of R32 ***but containing no R134a refrigerant***.

The requirements of amended independent claims 5 and 7 are ***not*** disclosed or suggested by Unezake et al. or any other prior art of record. Rather, Unezake et al. discloses washing the refrigerant pipe with mineral oil (see paragraph [0089] of Unezake et al.) and installing R134a refrigerant (see paragraph [0044] of Unezake et al.). Consequently, the Unezake et al. teaches away from the present invention.

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference. Therefore,

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Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5 and 7, as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent 6 is also allowable over the prior art of record in that it depends from independent claim 5, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claim 6 is further allowable because it include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate the independent claim 5, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claim.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

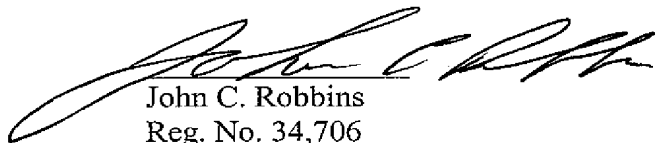
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5-7 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


John C. Robbins
Reg. No. 34,706

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
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